



# IBMSFQCCAA IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association

<http://www.ibmsfqccaa.org>

## President's Message

This newsletter is produced by the *IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association* (IBMSFQCCAA), a non-profit organization established in 2011 and based in Boca Raton, FL, for our dues-paying membership.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep members informed of IBMSFQCCAA-sponsored social and volunteer activities as well as general items of interest. Newsletter content is provided in the spirit of camaraderie to help foster IBM alumni connections.

**Circulation:** The Newsletter is circulated via the IBMSFQCCAA website to most of our members and friends. It is also sent by mail to members who do not have Internet access. Please provide feedback to: [info@ibmsfqccaa.org](mailto:info@ibmsfqccaa.org) or mail to:

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**Disclaimer:** *IBMSFQCCAA*, its Board members and Newsletter staff are not legally liable for any material submitted to us in good faith and are not responsible for any errors and/or omissions. If a member feels any content correction is needed, please let us know as soon as possible.

*IBMSFQCCAA* Bylaws can be found at [www.ibmsfqccaa.org](http://www.ibmsfqccaa.org).

**WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT.  
PLEASE HELP US MAKE  
THIS A GREAT ORGANIZATION.**

**PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO A FRIEND WHO MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED.**

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We're now well into 2013 and a number of activities have occurred since our last newsletter. We've had a golf outing, three member lunches, two more IBM Boca History discussions, a football game and tailgate party, our Annual Meeting, a trolley tour of Boca Raton, an FAU/FIU basketball game, and informative discussions of the 2013 IBM Medical Benefit Plans and SmartPhone essentials. We also met several IBMSFQCCAA members at Oktoberfest in Boynton Beach. In addition, *Gregg Cesario* made plans for an airboat tour of the Everglades, but could not reach agreement on discounts, and the tour ultimately had to be cancelled.



In reviewing the list of events over the past few months, I am both pleased and amazed at the number of activities we've been able to sponsor, through the efforts of a small number of dedicated volunteers who have worked diligently in the IBM spirit to "make it happen." In particular, I want to thank *Sy Schulman* for all his efforts to obtain, learn and present the 2013 IBM Medical Benefit Plans materials to our group. When the 2014 plans become available later this year, we hope to also make a video of this presentation for our remote members.

Coming up, we have another IBM Boca History meeting, a golf weekend, a wine tasting event, a concert, and we're working on setting up a couple of sporting events.

We continue to solicit your suggestions for future events that would be of interest. There's also a need for volunteers to help with the various tasks that are involved in making all these events happen. If you want to get involved with planning or coordinating our activities, email us at and we'll take it from there ([info@ibmsfqccaa.org](mailto:info@ibmsfqccaa.org)).

In the pages that follow, you'll find more on the recent and planned IBMSFQCCAA events. You'll also find "Where Are They Now" articles from two more IBM legends: *Barry Stofan* and *Jack Sams*.

Finally, I want to express my very personal sadness over the passing of *Joe Sarubbi*. He was a good friend of many IBMers in Boca Raton and throughout the IBM world. We'll all miss him.

Thanks again for all your support – without our membership and your continued involvement, IBMSFQCCAA would risk becoming a mere shell that could not continue to exist. We look forward to seeing you at some of the upcoming events and hope you have a healthy and successful 2013!!

*Justin "Jud" McCarthy*

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## Recent Activities

**September 13, 2012: IBMSFQCCAA Lunch.** Over 40 IBMSFQCCAA members and friends joined us for lunch. A notable attendee at this lunch was *Dave O'Conner*, who was a key part of the IBM Boca Raton activities for many years.

**September 21: IBM Boca History II:** Approximately 50 IBMSFQCCAA members attended this event, which was a continuation of the February and April meetings. *Pete Martinez* led an open discussion of IBM's activities and accomplishments through the years at the Boca Raton site, including products such as System 3, System/7, Maritime, Series/1, IBM PC and Related Products, Robotics, Manufacturing and Automotive Systems, SEDAB, Fort Knox, OS/2, Internet Division, Special Needs Products, Speech Systems, Project Checkmate, and LA Grid. *Pete* also discussed IBM's huge impact on the community, past and present, (including the work of our retirees).

**September 22: Delray Golf Tournament:** A golf scramble tournament at the Boca Delray Golf and Country Club. Approximately 20 golfers played in this event, which was cut short due to rain. Nevertheless, everyone had a good time on the course and at lunch. Everyone returned the following week for a full 18 holes and another lunch. Photos on page 5.

**October 13: Oktoberfest:** Approximately 10 IBMSFQCCAA members attended various parts of this event. Photos on page 5.

**October 27: Tailgate/Football Game—Florida Atlantic University vs. Troy University:** 15 IBMSFQCCAA members and guests attended the tailgate party and game that followed. IBMSFQCCAA won the Publix award for best tailgate party and Publix gave us a check and a "Tailgate Tent" that we can use at future events. FAU beat Troy 34 to 27. Photos on page 6.

**November 13: IBM Medical Benefits:** More than 50 IBMSFQCCAA members and guests attended this seminar. *Sy Schulman* reviewed the content and differences among the various medical programs that are being offered to IBM employees and retirees for 2013. Photos on page 6.

**December 3: IBMSFQCCAA Annual Meeting:** More than 50 IBMSFQCCAA members and guests attended this event. Association President *Jud McCarthy* opened the meeting and Secretary *Lew Miller* presented Association operations status. *Sy Schulman* presented the financial status report, filling in for Treasurer *John Ryan*, who was unable to attend. *Jud* then closed the meeting, and *The Amazing Mr. "A"* entertained for an hour, with his extensive collection of magic, balloon art, card tricks and ventriloquism. Many brought toys to brighten some childrens' Christmas. Photos on page 7.

**February 11, 2013: IBM Boca History III:** 53 IBMSFQCCAA members attended this event. *Pete Martinez* continued his review of the activities and accomplishments at the IBM-Boca Raton site. *Henry Meudt* also discussed his activities in supporting physically and mentally-challenged children and young adults. Photos on page 5.

**February 21: BRHS Trolley Tour:** 9 IBMSF-QCCAA members attended this event.

**March 2: FAU-FIU Basketball Game:** 9 IBMSFQCCAA members attended this event. FAU won 77 to 60.

**March 11: SmartPhone Fundamentals:** 39 IBMSFQCCAA members and guests attended this event. *David Niessen*, a cell phone kiosk manager at Costco, discussed the fundamentals and features of Smartphones, and then answered questions from the audience. Photos on page 6.

**March 14: IBMSFQCCAA Lunch:** 52 IBMSFQCCAA members and guests met for lunch at Miller's Ale House. *Vic Mazza* was visiting from Atlanta, and invited several of his associates from the System/7 and Series/1 era to attend and share their experiences.

**March 17: St Patrick's Day Parade—Delray Beach:** *Jud McCarthy* and his family participated in the parade and displayed the IBMSFQCCAA banner. Photos on page 6.

## Upcoming Events:

**Sunday, April 14, 3pm: Florida Intergenerational Orchestra:** The Orchestra will perform "The Magic of Music" at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, O'Shea Auditorium. See the email blast for more information.

**Weekend of April 19: Couples/Singles Golf in Naples, FL:** See the email blast for details.

**April 28 (Tentative): WPB Sweet Corn Fiesta:** We are working with *Quent Benedict* to arrange discounted tickets for this event. Look for an email blast with more details.

**May 6: IBM Boca Raton Site Startup – Planning and Implementation:** *Juan Rionda* will discuss the activities that were involved in creating the IBM Boca Raton site. The event will be held at Sugar Sand Park in Boca Raton. Look for an email blast with further details.

**May 17: Wine Tasting:** A wine tasting event is being planned at the de Hoernle Railroad Station in Boca Raton. Look for an email blast with details.

**August—date TBD: Marlins game:** We plan to meet at *Duffy's* and take their bus to/from the game. A top contender for this event is the Marlins/Giants game on Saturday August 17. Look for an email blast with details.

**Help Wanted:** We want to organize an event that will be held in the Miami-Dade area. If any IBMSFQCCAA members in Miami-Dade want to help with planning and coordinating this event, please let us know.



*Where Are They Now?*

**Where is Barry Stofan?** It's hard to believe 20 years have passed since retiring from IBM. Time marches on, and waits for no one in its journey. With that as my opening, I will tell you about my journey since retiring from IBM 20 years ago .



After 30 great years with IBM, I decided to take one of the buyouts and try something different. My wife, Ellie, had spent a career as a Real Estate agent, so I thought knew a little about that business. After working on our home in Boca for 6 months after retirement. I began studying to prepare for the Real Estate class, and eventually passed the test to earn my license and become an agent.

I joined the firm Ellie worked at, Arvida Realty Inc. in Boca. I met a lot of great agents who had years of experience over me. Their knowledge and expertise sort of overwhelmed me. As it turned out, I found I loved the technical side of the business, but just could not get used to hosting open houses on Sunday afternoons, and wearing a suit, when the Dolphins were on TV.

Just about then I got a call from *Jerry Benedict*, another IBM retiree, who was Vice President of Engineering at Lacks Enterprises in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Jerry and I knew each other and had worked together in Boca, and he wanted me to join him at Lacks as Director of Product Development. Imagine, retiring in Florida and then moving north. It's supposed to be the other way around.

For those of you not familiar with Lacks, they are a privately owned, internationally recognized, auto supplier that designs and produces complex, highly decorated components and systems for the exterior and interior automotive trim market; e.g. grills, wheel ornamentation and other components. The finishes that Lacks employs include bright and satin chrome electroplating and painting of high impact plastic.

A division of Lacks (Plastic Plate Inc.) worked with us back in 1981 to plate the plastic covers for the PCjr and follow-on products to shield for electromagnetic interference emissions.

After much discussion, we accepted the offer, and left sunny south Florida in February of 1994 and flew into snowy and cold Grand Rapids. What a shock to the system after 26 years in Florida.

After about 5 years working at Lacks, Jerry decided to retire, and the Lacks family asked me to become Director of Engineering for the Exterior Trim Business unit. I continued in that position until Jan of 2005, when I retired again, this time for good.

In the spring of 2006, Ellie and I decided that since we had lived in both Florida and Michigan for many years, we

should spend our winters somewhere in between. The Michigan winters were great for snowmobiling but you can't do that every day. We decided on Pinehurst, NC.

So for now, we are spending our winters in North Carolina and our summers in Michigan. Both places offer great golf courses and we can golf year round. Golf is a game we are still trying to learn. Some things never change.

We spend as much time as possible outdoors, mostly playing golf, cruising, touring arts and crafts festivals and walking. About a year ago we started taking Yoga classes. I recommend that for everyone.

Two of our kids and their families are located near Atlanta, and a son still lives in South Florida. We lost Barry Mike 10 years ago this July at age 36. What a sad tragedy. We pray for him every day but we try not to constantly dwell on the sorrow that we feel. Friends may contact me at [BStofan@aol.com](mailto:BStofan@aol.com) .

**Where is Jack Sams?** I left Boca Raton in 1983 for a series of special assignments within IBM related first to cross-architecture, distributed UNIX systems at UCLA and Carnegie Mellon (as opposed to stand alone AIX), then later to Windows based PC applications at the Cambridge Science Center, (as opposed to OS/2). By 1990, we had reached our technical goals at UCLA and the Cambridge Science Center; but couldn't overcome internal policy opposition; so, I took the early retirement window in 1990.



About a year into retirement, I joined a startup company that had developed an automated backup service for PC's in upstate New York. (Think Carbonite, but too early and underfunded.) I continued consulting with local internet startups until 1998, when I had the opportunity to join the technology transfer office at Florida State University full time. My "official" job description follows:

**Jack G. Sams, Director of Licensing:** Jack manages the acquisition and commercialization of new intellectual property for the Department of IP Development and Commercialization. Jack joined our Office in 1998, ending a short retirement from a long career at IBM, where he managed the development and acquisition of operating systems for a variety of real time multicomputers and engineering workstations. At various times, he has also been a consulting engineer, owned several small businesses, and started a business incubator. Jack has a BS in Chemistry from Texas Tech, an MS in Engineering from Tulane, and participated in the Executive MBA program at Florida Atlantic University.

In simple terms, this means I assess faculty inventions and try to find companies or investors who can turn those ideas into products. Great job, which I intend to keep until they carry me out heels first. That almost happened in 2005, when I was diagnosed and then treated successfully for Hodgkins lymphoma. I'm now in good health, reasonably fit, and symptom free for over six years. ( Long) Life is good!

Continued on page 4



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## Brian Utley in the News

Former IBM Boca Raton System Manager and Laboratory Director *Brian Utley* was recently in the news. He was part of the team that witnessed and certified Felix Baumgartner's October 2012 jump from 24 miles in space, breaking the sound barrier and setting a record for the highest skydive. See photo on page 7, showing Brian Utley with Felix Baumgartner after the jump.

Following are excerpts from the Sun-Sentinel article:

Baumgartner's body pierced the atmosphere at 833.9 miles per hour, according to preliminary numbers released by Brian Utley, the certification official for the Federation Aeronautic International, at a press conference afterward.

Utley said preliminary figures indicate Baumgartner broke a total of three established world records, including the highest altitude skydive, longest freefall without a parachute and fastest fall achieved during a skydive.

For more on Brian Utley and the jump, see the following:

<http://sagecheshire.com/news/2012/12/brian-utley-offers-inside-account-of-felix-baumgartners-new-speed-record/>  
<http://naa.aero/html/airsports/index.cfm?newsid=391&cmsid=82>

## Welcome 19 New Members since our last Newsletter

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Kenneth Bano              | Sandy Meade    |
| Robert Berens             | Michael Meeks  |
| Klare Blauer              | Bill Nemes     |
| Judith Bradley            | David O'Connor |
| Wayne Cohen               | Paul Petroskey |
| Conrad Cox                | Frank Roedell  |
| Elaine Fitzgerald-Roedell | Aurora Siegl   |
| Jose Garcia               | Henry Wershaw  |
| Fred Hall                 | Robert Wisner  |
| Vern Kendrick             |                |

## Credits

Newsletter Editor: *Bill Gee*  
Newsletter Review: *Sy and Barbara Schulman, BOD Members*  
Email Blast Administrator: *Dave Johnson*  
Content: *Bill Gee, Jud McCarthy, Lew Miller, Larry Salerno, Jack Sams, Emily Santos, Barry Stofan,*

## Farewell

*We have learned of the following members of the IBM Family who have passed away.*

Dick MacCarroll, 11/20/2012  
Syl Popis, 12/22/2012  
Joe Sarubbi, 12/29/2012

After Boca, our family moved to Austin, on to Los Angeles, back to Austin, and then to Connecticut. We were in Austin long enough for my two younger children, John and Blair, to graduate from the University of Texas. John went on to Baylor Law and Blair studied theater at Harvard.

After my retirement, Anne and I moved to Tallahassee, FL, where son Ted was then living. He left, but we stayed. Anne and I were divorced in 1996 after 47 years of somewhat tumultuous marriage.

Our oldest son Mark, who was in the Air Force, now lives in Fort Worth with Anne, whose health is fragile. Middle son, Ted operates a health clinic in Fort Lauderdale. Younger son, John is corporate counsel at Bell Aircraft in Fort Worth. Daughter Blair, grandson Henry, and son-in-law John Yearley live in Metuchen, New Jersey. John is an author, Blair does TV commercials.

Lou Conaway, the widow of a good friend, and I married in 2007 and moved into Tallahassee proper from nearby Wakulla county in 2008.



**IBM Community Grants Program:** March 5, 2013 to October 31 2013 (or until the funds are depleted) .

Dear IBMer/IBM Retiree, **Do you volunteer at your child's school, local health or human service agency, museum, senior center or other nonprofit?**

Don't wait to get started! Your volunteerism counts, so start tracking your hours now. Remember, you can increase the grant amount if you or your team uses an On Demand Community Activity Kit, and if the volunteer activity is posted. Contact your local grants administrator, Recie Duncan ([suprdun@us.ibm.com](mailto:suprdun@us.ibm.com)) to find out what documentation needs to be in place to ensure that you can submit your application as soon as possible in this cycle.

As in years past, the individual grants still require employees/retirees to volunteer 40 hours and log those hours on the On Demand Community website. Please follow Steps 1-3 below to see how to apply.

Step 1: **IBM Employees:** go to <https://ibm.biz/BdxGZY> .  
**IBM Retirees:** Use the Retiree On Demand Community website and the on-line grant application process to complete the application. Here's the link to the Retiree web site: <https://ibm.biz/BdxGZ2> .

**Note:** If your organization received a grant in 2012, then you only need to send an email to [suprdun@us.ibm.com](mailto:suprdun@us.ibm.com) to verify the organization is up to date in the system. You may not need to submit any documentation this year.

Step 2: Gather the required documents and send them to the local grants administrator. For more information on the submission process and required documents, see the web-sites for IBM Employees or IBM Retirees shown above.



**Activities Photos**



Delray Golf - We're Ready



Delray Golf - Let's Get Going



Delray Golf - Tee Time



Delray Golf Lunch - Jud and Friends



Delray Golf Lunch



Delray Golf Lunch



OktoberFest



OktoberFest



OktoberFest



IBM Boca Raton History III - Attendees



IBM Boca Raton History III - Pete Martinez



IBM Boca Raton History III - Henry Meudt



## Activities Photos (Continued)



Tailgate Party - Larry Salerno and Friends



Tailgate Party - Chef Jud McCarthy



Tailgate Party - Some Serious Planning



Tailgate Party - Assembling the Tent



Tailgate Party - Under the Tent



FAU-Troy Game - Let's get the game started!



Benefits Meeting Attendees



Benefits Meeting - Sy Schulman, Presenter



St Patrick's Day Parade - Jud McCarthy and Family



SmartPhone Meeting Attendees



SmartPhone Meeting - David Niessen, Kiosk Manager for Costco



St Patrick's Day Parade - Jud McCarthy and Family

**Activities Photos**



Annual Meeting - Attendees



Annual Meeting - *Lew Miller* delivers the Operations Report



Annual Meeting - *Sy Sculman* delivers the Treasurers Report



Annual Meeting - The Amazing Mr. "A" introduces himself



Annual Meeting - The Amazing Mr. "A" warms up the crowd



Annual Meeting - The Amazing Mr. "A"'s Balloon Magic



Annual Meeting - The Amazing Mr. "A" Pick a card



Annual Meeting - The Amazing Mr. "A" Open the box and here's the Dummy



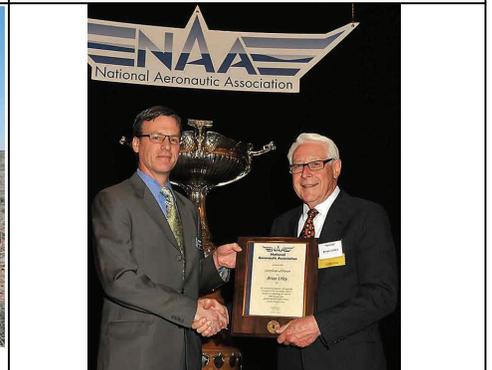
Annual Meeting - The Amazing Mr. "A" The Dummy can Talk!!



Annual Meeting - Toys for Tots



High-Altitude Jump - Felix Baumgartner and *Brian Utley*



NAA Award - Given to *Brian Utley*